

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /067 W
-----028033 190721Z /20

R 171540Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0090
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02807

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED SLICE XXIX INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

REFS: (A) USDELMC 192/78, 14 MAR 78, (B) STATE 56790,
062003Z MAR 78
SUMMARY. WE BELIEVE REF A PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT BASIC
RESPONSE TO REF B AND WE CONCUR ON ALL POINTS. WE
ADD HEREIN OUR POLITICO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF SLICE
XXIX AND OUR VIEWS ON HOW IT FITS INTO THE INFRA-
STRUCTURE CYCLE BEYOND CALENDAR 1978. THIS MESSAGE
HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH USDELMC. END SUMMARY.

1. WE BELIEVE REF A PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT BASIC
RESPONSE TO REF B. WE HAVE COORDINATED AND CONCURRED
ON ALL POINTS.

2. AS WE SEE IT, SLICE XXIX REPRESENTS A "GET-WELL"
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PHASE IN WHICH THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS (MNC'S)
ARE NOW BRINGING UP PROJECTS WHICH WOULD HAVE REMAINED
IN LIMBO FAILING THE IAU 140 MILLION ADD-ON, WHILE
MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THE HIGH-PRIORITY AREAS OF
COMMUNICATIONS, WAR HEADQUARTERS AND FORWARD STORAGE
SITES. REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY, THERE IS SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE (EVEN LUXEMBOURG AT IAU 22,000) AND,

EXCEPTING THE USUAL NET CONTRIBUTORS (US, DENMARK, NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM), DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY EQUALS OR EXCEEDS INFRASTRUCTURE SHARES.

3. WE WOULD AGREE WITH THE REF A OBSERVATION (PARA 3.D) THAT THE LONG-TERM INSUFFICIENCY OF RESOURCES CONTINUES TO LIMIT FUNDING OF NEW PROJECTS AND THUS CONSTRAINS MNC PROGRAMMING FLEXIBILITY. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, ESCAPE THE FACT THAT THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY IS GROWING STEADILY, ALBEIT MORE SLOWLY THAN WE MIGHT WISH, AND THAT THERE MUST BE A PROPORTIONATE GROWTH IN DEMANDS FOR UPDATING, MAJOR RESTORATION AND CONVERSION. IN FACT, SLICE XXIX PROBABLY REPRESENTS A FAIRLY STANDARD BALANCE OF ON-GOING PROJECTS, RESTORATION/MODERNIZATION, AND NEW PROJECTS (39.6 PCT, 23.7 PCT AND 36.7 PCT RESPECTIVELY).

4. WHAT, INDEED, WE HOPE FOR THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR SLICE GROUP (XXXI-XXXV) IS THE KIND OF MAJOR EXPANSION THAT WILL BOOST NEW PROJECTS TO AT LEAST 50 PCT OF THE FIVE-YEAR TOTAL. THIS WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF INFRASTRUCTURE IS TO HANDLE THE REQUIREMENTS BEING GENERATED BY THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND WHICH WILL BE AN OVERLAY ON THE BASIC PROGRAM STRUCTURE (SEPTTEL DISCUSSES THE LTDP-INFRASTRUCTURE LINKAGE). IN SPITE OF ITS SIZE (THE IAU 140 MILLION ADD-ON PLUS IAU 26

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MILLION), SLICE XXIX RETAINS THE CHARACTER OF THIS UNDER-FUNDED SLICE GROUP AND IS EFFECTIVELY THE LAST FULL-SIZED SLICE IN THE GROUP, THERE BEING ONLY IAU 32 MILLION LEFT FOR SLICE XXX. THUS, THE NATIONS WILL SCRUTINIZE IT WITH SOME CARE TO INSURE THAT ALL PROJECTS HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE SLICE XXIX TIME-FRAME. IF THEY CANNOT, THEY WILL MOVE TO THE RELATIVELY EMPTY SLICE XXX.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD RESIST ANY EFFORTS (US OR OTHER) TO FORCE ADDITIONAL OR SUBSTITUTE PROJECTS INTO EITHER SLICE XXIX OR XXX SINCE THE SHORTAGE OF FUNDS REINFORCES THE NEED TO LEAVE ALLIED MILITARY PRIORITY EVALUATION IN THE HANDS OF THE MNC'S. IN FACT, NATO'S INABILITY TO PROGRAM CERTAIN FAVORITE NATIONAL PROJECTS COULD BE USED TO INSPIRE CERTAIN OF THE NATIONS TO MORE LIBERAL DECISIONS ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND CEILING FOR 1980-84. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MANAGEMENT, MILITARY PLANS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO02807
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0760
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabsau.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0a67cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 14 MAR DEL PLATA 78, 78 STATE 56790
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3284742
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECOMMENDED SLICE XXIX INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
TAGS: MARR, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0a67cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014